This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (original). A method for tracing a computing task in a distributed computing environment, comprising:

at a first device, issuing a first call to invoke a first procedure to be executed at a second device that is different from said first device, said first call including tracing information instructing said second device to provide event information regarding the execution of said first procedure at the second device;

at said second device, receiving the first call and invoking the first procedure in response to said first call; and

at said second device, providing event information in accordance with said tracing information.

2 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein said tracing information specifies a limitation on the content of the event information, and wherein said act of providing event information comprises providing a limited amount of event information in accordance with the specified limitation.

3 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein said event information includes property information descriptive of the event, and wherein said act of providing said event information includes providing said property information.

4 (original). The method of claim 3, further comprising the act of deriving at least some of said property information from an environment present at said second device.

5 (original). The method of claim 3, wherein said property information includes a plurality of attributes, wherein said tracing information specifies a limitation as to a subset of said attributes, and wherein said act of providing event information includes providing attributed information limited in accordance with said subset.

6 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein said first procedure produces a result, and wherein said method further comprises providing said result to said first device.

7 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein said first procedure issues a second call to invoke a second procedure at a third device different from said first device and said second device, and wherein said method further comprises including said tracing information, or information based on said tracing information, in said second call.

8 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein said second device is a member of a cluster of devices, and wherein said first call is issued to said cluster of devices and assigned to said second device, the identity of said second device being indeterminate at the time of said first call.

9 (original). The method of claim 1, further comprising formatting said event information in accordance with a formatting convention.

10 (currently amended). A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions to perform acts comprising:

determining that generation of event information is enabled;

generating first event information indicative of a first event occurring during the operation of a program;

calling a procedure on a remote device whose location or identity is undetermined at the time of the call; and

transmiting to said remote device information instructing said remote device to generate second event information indicative of a second event occurring during the operation of said procedure,

wherein said property information comprises a plurality of elements, wherein said transmitting act includes transmitting filtering information which limits the property information to be generated to a subset of said plurality of elements.

11 (original). The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein said generating act includes generating property information descriptive of said first event.

12-22 (cancelled).

23 (currently amended). A system for supporting tracing in an application program which executes on a first computing device and which issues a call to a second computing device for at least some processing, the system comprising:

a library residing on the first computing device comprising one or more methods callable by the application program;

an event handler residing on the first computing device which receives events generated by calls to said methods, and which causes the generation of first tracing information in response to said events, the generation of said first tracing information being limited by a requirement that originates from the application program; and

a trace service component which receives at least some of said tracing information and which generates a remote trace request for forwarding to the second computing device when said tracing information indicates that the application program has issued a call to the second computing device.

24 (original). The system of claim 23, wherein the call to the second computing device is represented in the form of a data structure to be transmitted to the second computing device over a communications medium, and wherein said trace service component attaches the remote trace request to said data structure.

25 (currently amended). A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of computer-executable components for supporting tracing in an application program that executes on a first computing device and that issues a call to a second computing device for at least some processing, the components comprising:

a library which is installable on the first computing device, said library comprising one or more methods that are executable on the first computing device and that are callable by the application program;

an event handler which is installable and executable on the second computing device, said event handler receiving events generated by calls to said methods and causing the generation of first tracing information in response to said events, the generation of said first tracing information being limited by a limitation requirement that is sent from the first computing device to the second computing device; and

a trace service component which is executable on the first computing device, which receives at least some of said tracing information, and which generates a remote trace request for forwarding to the second computing device when said tracing information indicates that the application program has issued a call to the second computing device.

26 (original). The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the call to the second computing device is represented in the form of a data structure to be transmitted to the second computing device over a communications medium, and wherein said trace service component attaches the remote trace request to said data structure.